

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING BILL LYNCH

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Lynch, for receiving the title of Sonoma City Alcalde in 2023.

Mr. Lynch has dedicated his life to the people of the city of Sonoma, California. During the Vietnam War, Mr. Lynch served in the U.S. Navy. Upon his return home, Mr. Lynch was a volunteer firefighter and served on countless boards and commissions. Mr. Lynch has devoted himself to the city of Sonoma for decades.

Mr. Lynch worked as the publisher of the Sonoma Index Tribune for 40 years, carrying on a 128-year family legacy of running the city paper. Throughout his career in journalism, Mr. Lynch developed numerous relationships throughout the city. He faithfully reported on the issues that were important to the people of Sonoma, even when it made him unpopular with the City Council. In 1998, Mr. Lynch wrote a story about a resort that was to be built in the city, which led to a citywide protest to prevent the completion of the deal. Although it sometimes made enemies, Mr. Lynch was never afraid to stand up for what he believed to be in the best interest of his community.

Mr. Lynch has also given back to Sonoma in many other ways in addition to his profession. He started the Youth Soccer Program and formed a committee to establish the modern Vintage Festival which celebrates the rich wine history in Sonoma Valley. He also worked on several committees which raised money for the Boys and Girls Club and is instrumental in raising funds to keep Sonoma Valley Hospital's doors open.

Mr. Lynch is a family man, with a heart as "big as his community". For all his years of public service, Mr. Lynch does not ask for awards or honors, but is happy to work behind the scenes for the good of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that Bill Lynch has devoted his life to our Sonoma community. I am proud to call Bill my friend. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

### HONORING THE MERITED SERVICE AND PROMOTION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL BRIEN PURCELL HORAN

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 2023*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend and fellow public servant, Brien P. Horan, who has just been promoted to Brigadier General on the military

retired list of the state of Connecticut. On March 20, 2023, Brigadier General Horan invited me to join Major General Francis Evon, Commanding General of the Connecticut National Guard and Adjutant General of Connecticut, in pinning on his new rank at the promotion ceremony. This milestone event occurred at the William O'Neill State Armory, the headquarters of the Connecticut National Guard in Hartford, Connecticut, just adjacent to the State Capitol. Becoming a general officer represents not just a promotion, but recognition of his lifetime of service to our nation, at home and overseas, and to our state, which I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating.

Born in 1953 to Arthur and Eileen Horan, Brien was raised in the Hartford area where he was infused with a family tradition of public service. His father, a World War II veteran, was also an officer on the military retired list of Connecticut, as was his grandfather, a veteran of the Spanish-American War who was commissioned an infantry officer of the Connecticut National Guard back in 1899. Brien's father was a longtime aide to Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut's Governor and U.S. Senator, and for several years ran the latter's Connecticut Senate office, where he was in charge of constituent services. His mother Eileen was for more than 20 years the registrar of voters in the Town of West Hartford, re-elected many times and recognized across the state for her expertise in election law. I first befriended General Horan as fellow altar boys at St. Timothy's Church in West Hartford in 1965 and as classmates at Northwest Catholic High School. Our long friendship gave me an opportunity to witness how deeply ingrained his parents' work as public servants affected his future desire to serve our nation. After high school, he earned a bachelor's degree from Amherst College, spending a year of college at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, where he honed his fluency in the French language. After college, our educational paths crossed again, at the University of Connecticut's School of Law, where we both received our law degrees, mine in 1978 and his in 1979.

After law school, Brien was commissioned as a reserve officer in the Army JAG Corps. In 1981, Captain Horan transitioned to active duty and served in West Germany for two years as a military prosecutor. Then from 1983 to 1985, he was in charge of the legal section of the U.S. Defense Attaché Office at the American Embassy in Paris. After completing 4 years of active duty in Europe, he would remain in the Army Reserve as a judge advocate officer for another 26 years, including 10 years as a Colonel.

As a Colonel, he was for several years the senior Army Reserve judge advocate assigned to U.S. Army Europe. Before that, from 2000 to 2004, he was the commander of the Army Reserve's JAGC unit for the six New England states, the 3rd Legal Support Organization in Boston. He directed the 3d LSO's provision of legal services to thousands of New England reservists mobilized after the 9/11 attacks. During Brien's command tenure, General Eric

Shinseki, the Army Chief of Staff, chose the 3d LSO as one of only two Army Reserve units to receive the prestigious 2002 Army Chief of Staff Award for Legal Assistance. Before his promotion to Colonel, Brien also served as an international law faculty member at the JAG School in Charlottesville and as a judge advocate in the Army's Criminal Law Division at the Pentagon. He was awarded numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit and four Meritorious Service Medals.

In addition, Brigadier General Horan had a long association with the Connecticut Military Department, including attachment to the Connecticut National Guard, service in the state military, and appointment as a Colonel Aide-de-Camp to the Governor.

In civilian life, Brien managed to alternate his private law practice with public service. He was long a partner in the Hartford law firm of Robinson & Cole and also was a vice president in the law department of The Hartford, one of the state's leading insurance carriers. But in the late 1980s, he worked as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department, with diplomatic assignments at our embassies in Kingston, Jamaica and in Paris. And at the end of his legal career, he returned to public service, as a U.S. Administrative Law Judge sitting in New Haven, Connecticut. He retired as a judge in November 2020.

Mr. Speaker, heartfelt congratulations are in order to Brigadier General Horan and to his sons, Nick and Doug, on his promotion to this high state rank and for his long military service. To that end, Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing Brigadier General Brien Horan's long and distinguished service to our Nation and to my State.

### RECOGNIZING THE LATE JAMES "KUCH" KUCHWARA FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 2023*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, Today I honor the late James "Kuch" Kuchwara for his military service and his lifelong service to his fellow veterans as commander of VFW Post 25. Kuch passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Kuch, the son of the late John and Rose Kelly Kuchwara, was born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Scranton Technical High School with the Class of 1968. Answering the call of duty to serve his country, Kuch enlisted in the United States Army, serving during the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge from the Army, he worked in the construction and contracting industry. For more than 30 years, he was employed as a crew leader for the Pennsylvania American Gas and Water Company.

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